उक्त नीति और कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन की परिवीक्षा करती है ।

किसानों के हितों को सुरक्षित रखने की दृष्टि से सरकार हर वर्ष कृषि, लागत व मूल्य आयोग की सिफारिश पर तिलहनों के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों की घोषणा करती है ।

सरकार मुख्य रूप से आबादी के कमजोर वर्गों की खुले बाजार मूल्यों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए खाद्य तेलों की भी आपूर्ति करती है ।

Bringing legal profession under Consumer Protection Act

13. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the legal profession under the purview of Consumer Protection Act, 1986; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) All services which are hired for a consideration, are covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. As such, the services rendered by legal profession which are hired for a consideration are covered under the Act.

Strengthening of District Consumer Fora

14. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the District Consumer Fora have not been able to devote much time to dispose of the pending work because the District & Session Judge who is also the Ex. Officio Presiding Officer of the District Consumer Forum is already overburdened with normal work;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint whole time Presiding Officers to these District Fora so that quick redressal may be given to the public;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen these Fora with additional power to deal with such problems;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to bring a legislation in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The responsibility of appointing Presidents of the District Forums rests with the respective State Governments. Recently, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 1141/88 has directed the State Governments to withdraw the sitting Judges in a phased manner and set up independent District Fora. These directions have been communicated to the State Government.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Recently Government has promulgated the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 which enables the State Governments to set up more than one District Forum depending on the work load, and confer additional powers on the Forums.

Need to standardise the consumer goods

15. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON-

SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the menace of spurious and adulterated consumer goods in the market;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government have taken or propose to take to tackle the problem; and

(c) whether Government propose to standardise the quality and price of the consumer items to save the innocent public from the present situation, if so, what are the steps taken are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards has taken a number of steps with the objective that consumers got quality products. About 2000 Indian Standards for consumer products have been formulated, specifying the functional and safety requirements. Formulation and upgradation of Standards is an on-going activity of BIS.

BIS is also operating a Certification Marks Scheme under which manufacturers are licensed to use the Standard Mark on goods produced by them in conformity with relevant Indian Standards.

The Bureau takes a number of steps to ensure that the goods bearing the Standard Mark have been produced in accordance with the relevant standards. This Scheme is generally voluntary in nature. However, Compulsory Certification has been provided by the Government under various Acts, Orders, Rules etc. for such products (at present 129) which are important from the point of view of health and safety of consumers.

BIS also has a mechanism under which the consumer can seek redressal of their grievances against quality of ISI Marked products.

BIS also takes appropriate action against those units which are not licensed but found misusing the Standard Mark.

Import of palm oil

16. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imported palm oil for public distribution system;

(b) the details of the quantity of the oil imported; and

(c) what is the cost price of imported palm oil and at what price it is to be distributed through Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir, The Government has not imported any quantity of Palm Oil for Public Distribution System during the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Strengthening of BIS

17. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to strengthen the BIS to upgrade the quality of Indian products to international level to boost exports;

(b) whether the BIS laboratories would be modernised with the help of World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and